

SECRET

RECORD COPY STAT

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OEXA 82-2458/A

26 October 1982

SFRC

Honorable Charles Percy, Chairman  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In response to your request, enclosed is a technical assessment of some of the claims made in the Scientific American article on verification of a Comprehensive Test Ban.

STAT

In general, the authors' characterization of nuclear test ban monitoring capabilities is significantly more optimistic than I believe is warranted. Additionally, their assessment of Soviet compliance with the TTBT is based on premises that are not generally accepted by the scientific and intelligence communities that are addressing these issues.

STAT

The overall judgment as to whether a Comprehensive Test Ban can be verified with high confidence is not limited to strictly technical factors, of course, and involves policy judgments on risk versus benefit that go beyond the intelligence aspects of the problem.

STAT

Sincerely,

William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence

Enclosure:  
As Stated

SECRET 

STAT

STAT